

III. REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, each of claims 1 and 5-7 has been amended. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116(b) because the Amendment: (a) places the application in condition for allowance as discussed below; (b) does not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration; and (c) places the application in better form for appeal. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment.

Applicants do not acquiesce in the correctness of the rejections and reserve the right to present specific arguments regarding any rejected claims not specifically addressed. Further, Applicants reserve the right to pursue the full scope of the subject matter of the claims in a subsequent patent application that claims priority to the instant application.

In the Office Action, claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,134,550 to Van Oorschot *et al.* Applicants assert that the Examiner has misinterpreted and/or mischaracterized one or both of Van Oorschot *et al.* and the present application.

In responding to Applicants' 20 July 2005 Response, the Examiner states:

In response to applicant's argument that the references (sic) fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., 'there are no relationship (sic) among the certificate authority filters in these tables') are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

Final Office Action at 2.

Applicants assert that their 20 July 2005 Response did not suggest that the Examiner should read a limitation of the specification into the rejected claims. The passage to which the Examiner refers reads: "As is clear from the language of claim 1, the claimed table may contain as few as one certificate authority filter. As such, there are no relationships among the certificate authority filters in these tables." 20 July 2005 Response at 6 (emphasis added). Thus, the language alleged by the Examiner as describing features not included in the rejected claims was provided as clarification of the language of claim 1 itself, which had clearly been misunderstood by the Examiner.

Applicants continue to assert that the language of claims 1 and 7 clearly distinguish the present invention from any teaching of Van Oorschot et al. cited by the Examiner. Claims 1 and 7 each recite, *inter alia*, "[a] method for filtering certificates issued from one or more certificate authorities..." (emphasis added). Thus, as is clear from the language of the claims themselves, the methods of claims 1 and 7 are applicable to filtering certificates issued from as few as one certificate authority using as few as one certificate authority filter. More specifically, claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, "[a] method for filtering certificates issued from one or more certificate authorities...comprising...identifying a certificate authority filter by referring to a table, that comprises identification of at least one certificate authority filter... (emphasis added)" and claim 7 recites "[a] method, in a certificate authority filter connected to a network, for filtering certificates issued from one or more certificate authorities...comprising...identification of at least one certificate authority... (emphasis added)."

Van Oorschot et al., on the other hand, teach the use of at least two certificate authorities and/or certificate authority filters. As explained in Applicants' 20 July 2005 Response, Van Oorschot et al. teach a method relying upon relationships among certification authorities:

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Certificate chains correspond to directed trust paths, also known as certification paths, such as trust relationships among certification authorities where at least one certification authority (CA) has certified another certification authority.

Van Oorschot et al., column 2, lines 22-26 (emphasis added).

Thus, Applicants assert that Van Oorschot et al. do not teach a method for filtering certificates issued from one or more certificate authorities. In both structure and function, the method of Van Oorschot et al. requires at least two certificate authorities and is therefore narrower in scope than the claims of the present invention.

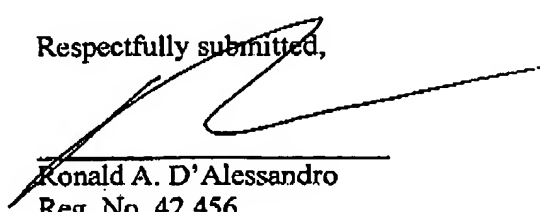
Nevertheless, in order to remove any confusion, each of claims 1 and 7 has been amended to more clearly recite a method for filtering certificates issued from at least one certificate authority or the use of at least one certificate authority filter. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to recite “[a] method for filtering certificates issued from at least one certificate authority” and claim 7 has been amended to recite “[a] method, in at least one certificate authority filter connected to a network, for filtering certificates issued from at least one certificate authority...” Claims 1, 5, and 6 have been further amended to clarify potentially confusing language.

Applicants assert that Van Oorschot et al. do not teach a method for filtering at least one certificate authority and do not, therefore, anticipate either of claims 1 or 7, as amended. As each remaining rejected claim depends from claim 1 or claim 7, Applicants assert that Van Oorschot et al. do not anticipate any of the pending claims.

Finally, Applicants reassert the remaining arguments contained in their 20 July 2005 Response as further evidence of Van Oorschot et al.’s failure to anticipate any of the rejected claims.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the application. Should the Examiner require anything further from Applicants, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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